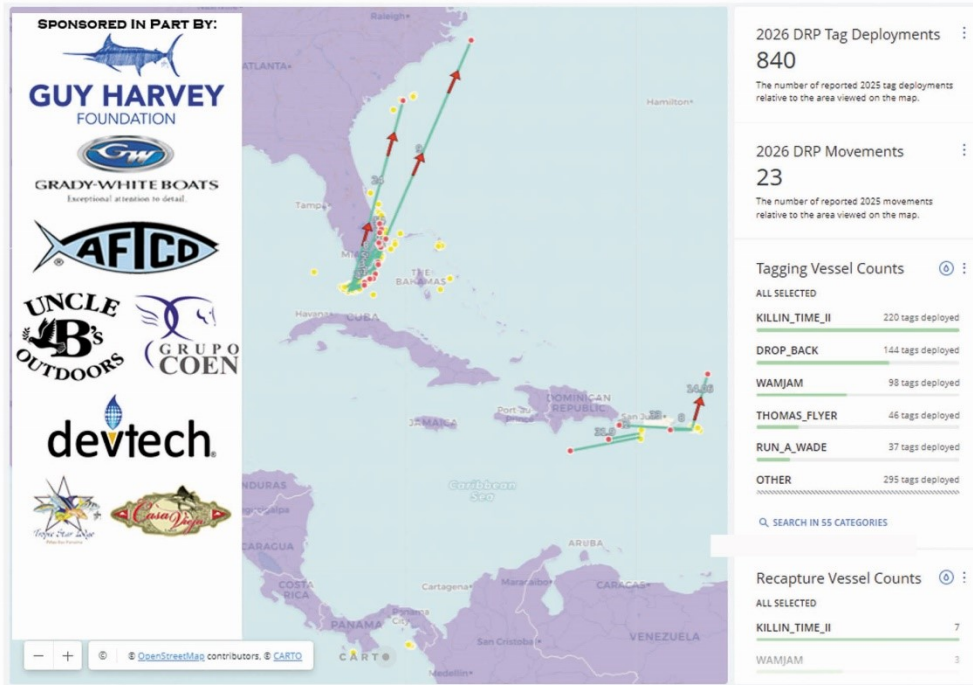


Dolphinfish Research Program™

Made possible by a grant from the Guy Harvey Foundation

June 2026



Reported and Received Tagging Progress from 5/29/2026-6/29/2026:

Don Gates (**Killin' Time II**) 187
 Mike Prendergast (**Reel Therapy**) 21
 Jimbo Thomas (**Thomas Flyer**) 17
 Chris Stanton (**Ruffian**) 9
 Sal Zeitlin (**Tight Lines**) 7
 Tim Heiser (**Irish Wake**) 4
 Alex Fritz (**H2O Psyco**) 3
 Darren Loesel (**Razzmatao**) 1
 Jeremy Williams (**Reel Grande**) 1
 Mike Everage (**The Panda Express**) 1
 Ray Harbaugh (**No Name**) 1
 Rob Rollins (**Conundrum**) 1

David Wamer (**Wam-Jam**) 98
 Jon Reynolds (**Drop Back Fishing Charters**) 90
 Angelo Masullo (**Levon**) 12
 Shawn Reese (**Fishtrips.com**) 8
 Jesus Manuel (**Miss Spain**) 5
 Wilmer Sanchez (**The Big Deal**) 4
 Bill Alch (**Catch 'Em Up Charters**) 1
 Jeff Dawson (**Finatic**) 1
 Kyle Kelly (**Reel Screamer 2.0**) 1
 Mike Vogt (**Whiplash**) 1
 Willie Howard (**Captain Willies Charters**) 2
 William Burch (**Jenny B**) 1

Brian Wilkins reported a fish tagged and released by Drop Back Fishing Charters
 Jon Reynolds reported a fish tagged and released by the Wam-Jam
 Kurt Oelschig reported a fish tagged and released by Wam-Jam
 Tom Kolodziejczak reported a fish tagged and released by Reel Therapy
 Mason James reported a fish tagged and released by Killin' Time II
 Thomas Rowe reported a fish tagged and released by Under Pressure
 Paul Baker reported a fish tagged and released by Killin' Time II
 Juan Rubio reported a fish tagged and released by Killin' Time II

Wesley Chambers reported a fish tagged and released by Killin' Time II
 Alex Adler reported a fish tagged and released by Killin' Time II
 Rick Alford reported a fish tagged and released by Killin' Time II
 Jessie Reyes reported a fish tagged and released by Wam-Jam

Year to 6/29/2026 for Reported Releases:
840 tagged & released for conservation
 and science by **55 different vessels**

23 Recaptures/Movements to date in 2026
23 verified
10 Satellite tags deployed
(1 (2025) and 2 (2026) at large)

In June, tagging participation surged 39% over May's level of participation. Historically, June is our tagging program's most active month. In fact, the month of June accounts for 33% of our program's total tag deployments (n=40509) with May the second highest month at 14%. However, this year tagging totals are down substantially when compared to 2025. May and June are down 53% and 43% when compared to last year, respectively. Yet, anglers have reported better fishing but for larger individuals. In addition, anglers off South Carolina have enjoyed great mahi fishing this season with some reporting that fishing hasn't been this good in several years. In the 2026 Big Rock Tournament, the largest fish was 66.1 pounds. Last year in the BRT, the largest dolphin was 47.2 pounds. Last year was characterized by many anglers by having a surge in young of the year fish while this year anglers are reporting larger fish. It is possible that last year's surge in small fish led to this year's run of larger fish. If this is a predictable pattern, then this year's low run of young fish will lead to low run of large fish next year. Elsewhere in the region, in the southern DR dolphin fishery we logged 32 outings from 6 vessels who collectively landed 6,732 pounds of dolphin at nearshore and offshore FADs.

Reported Recaptures or Movement Data Acquired Since 5/28/2026

Major Tagging Milestones for Two Fishing Teams

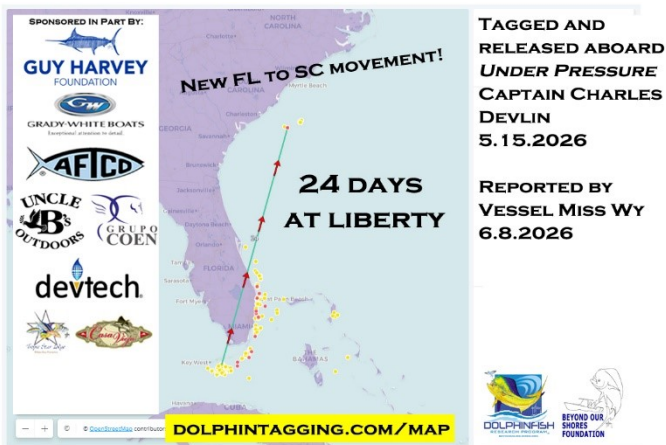


One of the most gratifying aspects of managing the **Dolphinfish Research Program (DRP)** is witnessing the incredible efforts of our volunteers. Our passion for community engagement and participation is rewarded when anglers surpass amazing milestones, and this past month, two private recreational fishing teams, **Don Gates** and **Killin' Time II**, as well as **David Wamer** and **Charlie Jamison** of **Wam-Jam**, achieved impressive tagging results; **Killin' Time II** surpassed 6,000 tagged dolphin on June 10, 2026, and **Wam-Jam** surpassed 1,000 on June 3rd, 2026. When examined individually, it took **Killin' Time II** 373 outings, averaging 17 fish tagged per outing, to amass 6,000 tag releases. For **Wam-Jam**, it took 104 outings, averaging 10 fish released per outing, to surpass 1,000. **Killin' Time II** has tagged more than 70 mahi in one day on 12 different occasions, and on one outing in 2025, they tagged a staggering 130. **Wam-Jam** has tagged more than 20 dolphin in 15 outings with 38 their all-time daily record from June 14th, 2021. Annually over the last five years, **Killin' Time II** and **Wam-Jam** have averaged 373 and 87 tagged, respectively. Last year, **Killin' Time II** tagged an incredible 669 fish — surpassing their previous best year, in 2017, when they tagged 424 fish. Team **Wam-Jam's** highest annual total was 146 from 2021, and so far in 2026 they have tagged 98. These teams are clearly dedicated to the

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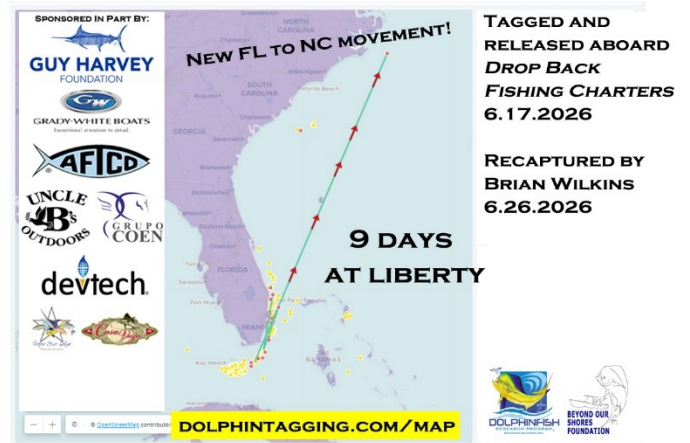
conservation of this species, and thanks to their dolphin-tagging efforts, we have been able to track fish from Key West to Massachusetts, the Bahamas, Greater and Lesser Antilles, and Venezuela. All of the teams participating in the DRP are to be commended for their effort and contributions to the scientific understanding of dolphin in the western central Atlantic Ocean. To watch a film about these significant tagging results, [click here](#).

June South Carolina Recapture



We recently had a recapture from the Southwest Banks off Charleston, SC, for a fish that was tagged and released aboard *Under Pressure* off Cudjoe Key, FL. Throughout the 25 years of our tagging program, we have only recorded 16 Florida to South Carolina movements but 97 Florida to OBX movements. We believe this is due to the Charleston Gyre and its impact on the rate at which fish bypass the closer shelf zone off Charleston and Georgetown, SC. Given the positive fishing reports from the Charleston and Georgetown region, and this new recovery, this may suggest the oceanography has shifted and led more biomass over the banks allowing anglers to relive their mahi fishing dreams of the past. We have an ongoing analysis in the works with relationship to this fishing zone and the Charleston Gyre/Blake Plateau/Gulf Stream effect and this movement recorded this past month is a solid data point. A huge thanks to the Vessel *Miss Wy* for reporting this important recapture. To participate in our tagging program request tags at dolphintagging.com/tags.

June North Carolina Recapture

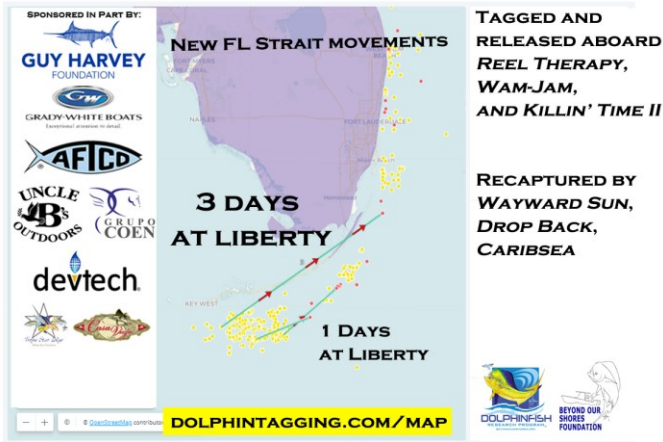


On June 26th, a dolphin was recaptured by Brian Wilkins while fishing off of Hatteras Island, North Carolina. The fish was tagged and released by Captain Jon Reynolds and [Drop Back Fishing Charters](#) on June 17th. The nine day movement is 166% faster than the movement rate for the June recapture off of South Carolina (shown above). As we mentioned above, we are investigating movement rates and dynamics from Florida to North Carolina versus to South Carolina and this movement record provides another solid data point. To participate in our tagging program request tags at dolphintagging.com/tags.

New Financial Supporters Since May 29, 2026

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Benjamin Bravo, PR
James Flint, FL
Chiggergrove Quail Preserve, SC
Guy Harvey Foundation, FL
Jon Reynolds, FL

June Keys & South Florida Recaptures



Over the past month, we have received four recapture reports for fish tagged and released by *Wam-Jam* (2), *Killin' Time II*, and *Reel Therapy*. All of these recoveries were short-term movements. The fish recaptured by *Wam-Jam* and *Killin' Time II* were at liberty for just a day; the fish recaptured from *Reel Therapy* was at liberty for three days. These new short-term recoveries were reported by Captain Jon Reynolds of *Drop Back Fishing Charters*, Kurt Oelschig, and Tom Kolodziejczak. All reporters received recapture awards, and tagging vessels are accumulating points in support of awards of gear from our [loyal sponsors](#). [Click here](#) to learn more.

Donate to Support Dolphinfish Research



A special thanks to everyone who has contributed to our tagging program since the beginning of our 2025/2026 fundraising campaign. With your support, we are

nearly halfway through the fiscal year and have already logged 11 new movements in the Western Central Atlantic, compiled additional catch and effort datasets,

given three public seminars, and expanded participation. Our goal is to distribute 400 kits and 4,000 tags in 2026. As of today, we have distributed 121 kits and 1,755 tags. Help support the expansion of our tagging program by making a [tax-deductible donation](#) or by purchasing tags or program apparel in our online shop. Our tagging program is at the forefront of educating anglers, advancing discussions and actions surrounding conservation of the species, and gathering additional data to help inform data-driven decision making at state, federal, and international levels. Help the DRP expand in 2026. Click the icons below to shop or donate to support our program.

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